

**Agenda Item 11: General Exchange of Information on Non-Legally  
Binding United Nations Instruments on Outer Space**

**Mr Chair and distinguished Delegates,**

India, as a space-faring nation, recognizes the key role of non-legally binding UN instruments on outer space in shaping the standards, guidelines, and policies related to space-based activities at national level. The UNCOPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the UN adopted guidelines on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities are vital non-binding instruments aimed at ensuring safe and sustainable use of outer space. India places high importance on implementing these guidelines and continually strives to improve the compliance level through proactive measures.

**Mr. Chair,**

However, the ever-widening scope of space activities and the consequent transformative changes in the space environment require adoption of newer and revised guidelines, especially in the light of increasing launch traffic, frequent atmospheric re-entries, proliferation of large constellations and small satellites. In particular, addressing specific activities like space traffic control, active debris removal, on-orbit servicing requires a holistic approach involving a wider participation of different stakeholders, including academia and industry.

**Mr Chair,**

The main drawback of non-legally binding instruments is that the implementation hinges on their voluntary adoption by States. The current scenario demands stricter adherence to these instruments, which incur additional cost and complexity, and hence, may prove to be daunting to new entrants. However, the key point to be recognized by the space faring entities is that the additional efforts and overheads for implementing these instruments are rewarded by ensuring longevity of space assets and the preservation of outer space for sustained utilization.

**Mr Chair,**

With the growing interest in exploring Mars and the Moon, it may also be high time to consider applying some of the lessons learnt through decades of operating in Earth orbital regime to develop such instruments for deep space regime.

India looks forward to further deliberations on expanding the scope of these non-legally binding instruments to address the future challenges of sustaining activities in an increasingly congested, rapidly evolving outer space.

**Thank You, Mr Chair and Distinguished Delegates.**